

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OPERATIONS CENTER

CONFIDENTIAL

THE GAMBIA WORKING GROUP

Situation Report No. 11

Situation in The Gambia as of 1700 Hours August 3 1981

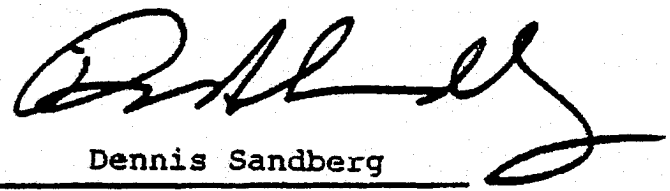
The situation in Banjul remains uncertain. The Senegalese now have 1410 troops on the ground. They have secured the airport. Movement along the major road in Banjul proper is possible without escort, while elsewhere in the city, escort is required. Senegalese forces are leaving negotiations to end the fighting and obtain release of the hostages to Jawara and are apparently in a standfast position. There is no new information on the status of the hostages held by the dissidents at the Field Force headquarters.

President Jawara is in The Gambia and today made a speech calling for the rebels to lay down their arms and negotiate with government authorities to end the shedding of Gambian blood. Jawara returned to The Gambia August 2. Confusion among the Gambian public continues, however, as rebel radio broadcasts claim Jawara is not really in the country and cannot return. To counter this, Jawara plans another radio message shortly which will include statements from other government members who are generally known not to have left the country.

Senegalese President Diouf in a brief address to the Senegalese nation made the first public claim to foreign involvement in the Gambia coup attempt. Explaining that he had ordered troop intervention in The Gambia because Senegalese security was at stake, Diouf asserted that rebel elements in The Gambia had been equipped and trained abroad. Embassy Dakar reports Senegalese public reaction to the intervention in The Gambia has not been favorable.


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State Dept. review completed

